Toothpaste Manufacturing Companies

6628. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stay orders obtained by the Colgate Palmolive India Limited in 1985 against limiting its production capacity to the actual licenced capacity has till date neither been get vacated nor the case got finalised by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the finalisation of the case; and

(d) the details of other companies which are similarly violating the licencing conditions and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). In 1985, it was decided to launch prosecution proceedings against M/s Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd. for violating the provisions of I (D& R) Act, 1951 by having effected substantial expansion for the manufacture of toothpaste and tooth powder and also encroaching upon the area reserved for small scale sector without obtaining COB Licence. In the meantime, the Company field two write-petitions in the Delhi High Court seeking to restrain the Government from proceeding against them and obtained stay. Due to inordinate delay in the disposal of the case, the Department of I.D. made an application in the Delhi High Court for an early hearing of the case. The case was accordingly taken up for hearing on 16.2.1990, but the actual hearing of the case started only w.e.f. 9.4.91. Ultimately, as agreed by both the parties, the Divisional Bench of the Delhi High Court in its order dated 11.4.91 directed M/s. Colgate palmolive (India) Ltd. to implead themselves in another case pending before the Supreme Court. However, due to the announcement of the new industrial policy, the petitioner companies filed an application before the Supreme Court for withdrawal of their writ petitions pending in that Court and accordingly, the Supreme Court passed an order on 25.10.91 permitting the petitioners to withdraw their writ-petitions. The case, therefore, stands reverted to the Delhi High Court. The Department of Industrial Development have already requested the Central Government Standing Counsel in the Delhi High Court to file an application before the Hon'ble High Court for fixing an early hearing of the case for vacation of the stay/disposal of the writ petitions. The case is, therefore, sub-judice.

(d) M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. and M/s. Dabur India Ltd. who were reported to have been producing toothpaste/tooth powder in excess of their approved capacities have contested the capacities endorsed on their registration certificates/licences. Apart from these companies, M/s. Calcutta Chemical Co. Ltd. M/s. Ciba Geigy of India Ltd., M/s. Geoffrey Manners & Co. Ltd. and M/s. J.L. Morrison & Jones India Ltd. are also reported to have been producing toothpaste in excess of their approved capacities. The question of taking action against these companies will arise only if it is proved after examination that they have violated the licencing conditions under the I (D&R) Act, 1951.

HDFC Branches In Andhra Pradesh

6629. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount accumulated in the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) in the year 1991;

(b) the number of HDFC branches operating in Andhra Pradesh;